

Urban Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on February 28, 2013, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled "Addressing FHA's Financial Condition and Program Challenges, Part II."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on February 28, 2013, at 10:30 a.m., in room 215 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled "Delivery System Reform: Progress Report from CMS."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on February 28, 2013, at 10 a.m., in SD-226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct an executive business meeting.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Rules and Administration be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on February 28, 2013.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on February 28, 2013, at 10 a.m., in room SD-G50 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on February 28, 2013, at 2:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. HARKIN. Madam President, I see our distinguished majority leader on the floor. I will yield to him.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I appreciate very much my friend from Iowa allowing me to proceed.

I would just note for the record that I have only had two U.S. Senators visit me in my home in Searchlight. He is one of them.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that on Monday, March 4, 2013, at 5 p.m., the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations: Calendar Nos. 15 and 16; that there be 30 minutes for debate equally divided in the usual form; that upon the use or yielding back of time, the Senate proceed to vote without intervening action or debate on the nominations in the order listed; that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order; that any related statements be printed in the RECORD; that President Obama be immediately notified of the Senate's action and the Senate then resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—S. RES. 64

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that on Tuesday, March 5, at a time to be determined by the majority leader, after consultation with the Republican leader, the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 20, S. Res. 64; that the only amendment in order to the resolution be a Paul amendment striking provisions relative to the National Security Working Group; that there be up to 30 minutes of debate equally divided in the usual form on the Paul amendment; that upon the use or yielding back of that time, the Senate proceed to vote on the Paul amendment; that upon disposition of the Paul amendment, the Senate proceed to vote on adoption of the resolution, as amended, if amended.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

APPOINTMENT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, pursuant to Public Law 94-304, as amended by Public Law 99-7, appoints the following Senator as a member of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (Helsinki) during the 113th Congress: the Honorable ROGER WICKER of Mississippi.

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, MARCH 4, 2013

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate complete its business today, it adjourn until 2 p.m. on Monday, March 4, 2013; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; and that following any leader remarks, the Senate proceed to a period

of morning business until 5 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak up to 10 minutes each; further, that following morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session under the previous order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. REID. Mr. President, at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, there will be up to two rollcall votes on confirmation of the Chen and Failla nominations, both U.S. district judge nominees for New York.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. REID. Madam President, there being no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that following the statement of the distinguished Senator from Iowa, Mr. HARKIN, the Senate stand adjourned under the previous order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Iowa.

SEQUESTRATION

Mr. HARKIN. Madam President, we are now on the eve of the so-called sequester. Tomorrow, March 1, Federal agencies will begin making \$85 billion in arbitrary, destructive budget cuts—cuts that economists tell us will damage our fragile economy and cost nearly 1 million jobs. This is a shame and it is shameful. This is yet another self-inflicted wound to our economy, and it is completely unnecessary.

For months, President Obama and Democrats in Congress have urged Republicans to join with us in negotiating a balanced package of spending cuts and revenue increases to head off this sequester. Regrettably, we have run up against the same old response from our Republican colleagues: obstruction, obstruction, obstruction—an adamant refusal to compromise. They reject the very idea of a balanced approach, insisting that all deficit reduction must come exclusively from cuts to spending and investment. Since they have not gotten their way, they are now willing to allow all the destructive impacts of the sequester to happen.

Think about it, because it really is breathtaking. Republicans would rather allow our economy to lose up to a million jobs than to close a tax loophole that pays companies to move American jobs to foreign countries. They would rather risk jolting the economy back into recession than to close a tax loophole that allows hedge fund managers making hundreds of millions of dollars a year to pay a lower tax rate than middle-class families. It really is breathtaking.

I am deeply concerned about the arbitrary cuts to programs that undergird the middle class in this country—everything from medical research to